Himachal Pradesh	4
J & K	1
Karnataka	5
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	6
Orissa	3
Pondicherry (Union Territory)	1
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	5
Tamilnadu	7
Uttar Pradesh	9
West Bengal	4
Gujarat	5
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L.P.G. Agencies

2152. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the total number of L.P.G. agencies in the country and also their number in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): As on 1.1.1992 there were 4009 LPG distributorships in the country. The number of LPG agencies in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras is as follows:—

Bombay	131
Delhi	215
Calcutta	110
Madras	97

L.P.G. Agency in Patwadanagar, Nainital

2153. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tht the residents of the Patwadanagar area in Nainital, Uttar Pradesh have represented for opening of an L.P.G. agency in Patwadanagar; and

(b) if so, by when a L.P.Gas agency is likely to be opened there and at what stage of consideration the representation of the residents lies at present?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Representations are received from time to time for opening of LPG agencies in different places of the country including those in U.P. The Oil Companies on the basis of the market survey, economic viability and product availability include such places in their marketing plans.

Contract regarding off shore Drilling

2154. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be Pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC have given contracts to m/s Jagson International (P) Limited, Delhi, for offshore drilling;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ONGC did not float tenders for the drilling;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not fleating the tenders; and

(d) the progress made by the firm in off-shore drilling?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) ONGC had given contracts to M/s Jagson International for charter hire of a drillship and two jack up rigs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) On completion of drilling as per the contracts the drillship was dehired in May, 1991 and the, jack up rigs in December, 1991 and January, 1992.

Refused For Supply of Petroleum Products by the Soviet Government

@2155. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Government has refused to supply the petroleum products to India in Indian currency;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their refusal; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the requirement of petroleum products?

@Previously Unstarred Question 767, transferred from the 3rd March, 1992.